

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 RSC-01

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 AEC-05

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R 071535Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FI XZ SW OREP (CODEL IPU) YO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED FINNISH-SWEDISH RIFT AT IPU CONFERENCE

REF: HELSINKI 0250

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBERS AND ADVISERS US IPU DELEGATION
BELIEVE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN PRESS REPORTS CITED REFTEL
ARE EITHER INACCURATE OR CONSIDERABLE DISTORTION OF EVENTS.

2. THERE WAS NO SWEDISH ATTEMPT THAT THEY KNOW OF TO AMEND
KEKKONEN NFZ PLAN TO COVER ALSO SOVIET TERRITORY. THIS
ALLEGATION PRESUMABLY STEMS FROM A REMARK MADE BY SWEDISH
IPU DELEGATION CHIEF STUR ERICSON IN PLENARY. IN RESPONSE
TO A SOVIET SPEECH CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR
FREE ZONE IN SCANDINAVIA, ERICSON CAUSTICALLY ASKED THE
SOVIET DELEGATION CHIEF WHETHER, SINCE SCANDINAVIA
INCLUDES A PORTION OF NORTHERN RUSSIA, THE SOVIETS WERE
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PROPOSING A PLAN WHEREBY THEY WOULD WITHDRAW ALL NUCLEAR

WEAPONS, INCLUDING SHORT AND MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES AS WELL AS ICBMS, FROM SCANDINAVIAN RUSSIA. PERSONS PRESENT SAID FOR WHATEVER REASON ERICSON WAS PUT OFF AT THE RUSSIANS AND TOOK THIS OCCASION TO NEEDLE THEM.

3. THERE WAS A QUESTION RAISED EARLY ON ABOUT THE CANDIDACY OF FINNISH DELEGATION CHIEF RALF FRIBERG FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUP. THIS WAS RAISED NOT BY THE SWEDES, HOWEVER, BUT BY WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAUCUS", A GROUPING OF EC-9 AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH CONSULTED DAILY ON TACTICS IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIETS AND WARSAW PACT. QUESTION WAS RAISED IN THIS FORUM WHETHER NECESSARY EAST-WEST-NEUTRAL BALANCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED IF FRIBERG WERE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE THEORY BEING THE FINNS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INDEPENDENT OF THE SOVIETS FOR FRIBERG TO BE CONSIDERED A NEUTRAL. FRIBERG COMPLAINED TO US DEL ADVISER AT ONE POINT THAT HIS SUPPORT FOR CHAIRMAN POSITION WAS "ERODING", BUT MADE NO MENTION OF ANY SWEDISH INVOLVEMENT - FRIBERG KNEW THE "CAUCUS" SOURCE OF HIS OPPOSITION. WHEN ASKED ON THIS US DELEGATES CONFIRMED INFORMAL US SUPPORT FOR FRIBERG CANDIDACY. COMPROMISE FINALLY WORKED OUT WAS TO MAKE AN AUSTRIAN THE RAPORTEUR FOR THE FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUP TO "KEEP THE FINN HONEST".

4. A COLLATERAL ISSUE WHICH ALSO BORE ON THE FRIBERG CANDIDACY WAS THE FEELING ON THE PART OF SOME THAT WITH ERICSON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL/SECURITY DRAFTING GROUP, GIVING A CHAIRMANSHIP TO A SECOND SCANDINAVIAN WOULD BE TOO MUCH. THIS ARGUMENT NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

5. THERE WAS NO EFFORT THAT US DEL MEMBERS WERE AWARE OF TO EXCLUDE THE FINNS FROM THE SECURITY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP AND, AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE QUESTION REGARDING THE FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUP WAS NOT MEMBERSHIP BUT WHETHER FRIBERG WOULD GET THE CHAIRMANSHIP.
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